**Computer education in schools**

1774. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.P. Government has requested on 18th February, 1999 for grant of Rs. 12."54 crores for introducing computer education in schools; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the request made in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for introducing computer education in schools. However, no new grant is being released under the existing scheme of "Computer Literacy and Stuthes in Schools" (CLASS) as the scheme has been weeded out.

**Reducing the bag-load of School Children**

1775. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a five member group of academicians was lately formed to go into the desirability and feasibility of trimming the bag-load of school children and review and revise their curricula;

(b) whether such a need has also been emphasised by NCERT and educationists in general;

(c) whether any proposals or recommendations have been made by the group and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if so, whether any articulation of how to go about achieving this objective has been made; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in pursuance thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (e) A five member group of academicians has been constituted in NCERT for evolving National curriculum framework for School Education which inter alia will